



MEDINA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



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217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 www.uccmedina.org

*****Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher*****

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

- *During the 10:30 service, Jesus Vibes Sunday School is available for ages 3-8th grade*

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)”

Gathering Band

Andrew Berghold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

*INTROIT

“Come, O Long-Expected Jesus”

STUGGART 8.7.8.7.

Charles Wesley, 1744, alt.

Melody attrib. to Christian F. Witt, from Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715



4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;



By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have lost our way.

We feel distant from love.

We can't see our way to justice.

We join together in community for this journey.

Holy God, help us find our way to your love. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 7 & 1

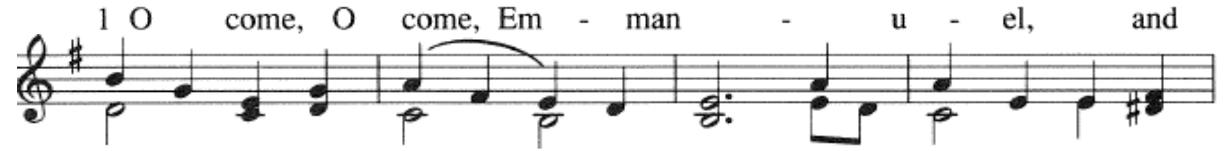
*Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710,
Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers*

VENI EMMANUEL L.M. with refrain
*Melody from a 15-century French "Processional"
Arr. Thomas Helmore, 1854*

Trans. J.M. Neale, 1851 and others; alt. St. 2 trans. H.S. Coffin, 1916, alt.



7. O come, De - sire of Na - tions, bind all



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and

Peo - ples in one heart - and mind; Make en - vy, strife, and



ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly

quar - rels cease; fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – LOVE

Readers: Kent & Judy Daugherty

Let us light the candle of love as we pray:

Holy God, as find our way forward on this unexpected journey, help us to hear the clear voice of the one crying in the wilderness. May we be surprised by the message in your Word today. May we be challenged to reach out in peace to our others in our path. Amen.

ALLELUIA RINGERS "Carol of the Bells" – Mykola Dmytrovich Leontovich/arr. Dick Averre
"Song of the Angels" – arr. Anna Laura Page

LITURGICAL DANCERS "Creator of the Stars of Night" – J.M. Neale
Olivia Miller & Leah Medley, dancers
Jenny Cochran, voice; George Lee, string bass; Cathy Fafarak, piano

CHANCEL CHOIR

“Rise Up, Shepherd” – spiritual/arr. John Rutter

Pete Metzloff, Soloist

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” – arr. M. Praetorius/ed. John Rutter

“Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child” – traditional spiritual/arr. Mark Hayes

Colleen Rice, Soloist

“Unspeakable Joy” - Douglas Miller

PASTORAL PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN

James Montgomery, 1816

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

J.C. Fogerty

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth.

Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship,

Worship! Worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Worship! Worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light;

Come and worship, come and worship,

Worship! Worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Worship! Worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations—brighter visions beam afar.

Seek the great desire of nations, ye have seen his natal star;

Come and worship, come and worship,

Worship! Worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Worship! Worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Though an infant now we view him, He shall fill his Father's throne.

Gather all the nations to him, every knee shall then bow down:

Come and worship, come and worship,

Worship! Worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Worship! Worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising, to th'eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship,

Worship! Worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Worship! Worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King.

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BENEDICTION**

As we continue our journey to the manger this week, remember the Love that created you, transforms you, and nurtures you.

May God carry us together in Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"**

**God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.**

***POSTLUDE "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" -John Michael Talbot**

Gathering Band

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

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****Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service.
Coffee Hour is hosted this week by Alicia Davies*

Finding Our Way Advent Series by:

This is the Day: Liturgy for Love and Justice. Formation for Faith and Renewal.

<https://thisistheday.net/>

Liturgy by Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth. Graphics by Ellen Ebeling.

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - luke@uccmedina.org
Rev. Meghan Malone, Associate Pastor of Youth & Mission - meghan@uccmedina.org
Karen Brocco-Kish, Visitation Pastor – karen@uccmedina.org
Ryan Collins, Ministerial Intern - ryan@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - office@uccmedina.org
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PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education – stacie@uccmedina.org
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Jennifer Cochran, Director of Music - jenny@uccmedina.org
Cathy Fafrak, Organist – cathy@uccmedina.org
Jennifer Vilimonovic, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool – jen@uccmedina.org
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Sharon Perry, Custodian

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

DECEMBER 18, 2022

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at www.uccmedina.org/live

December 18, 2022 thru December 25, 2022

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 4th Sunday of Advent
10:00 am **One Service Only – Sing Sunday**
12:30 pm Instrumental rehearsal
4:30 pm Men’s Group
4:30 pm Youth Group Christmas Party

Mon 1:00 am Breadmakers

Tues 7:00 pm Bible Study

Wed **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR
STAFF RETREAT**

10:30 am Quilters
6:15 pm Bell Choir rehearsal
6:30 pm Gathering Band rehearsal
7:00 pm DELT Meeting
7:00 pm WISE Team Meeting
7:45 pm Choir rehearsal
9:15 pm Soloist rehearsal

Thurs

Fri **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON**
Sat **CHRISTMAS EVE**

6:00 pm Family Candlelight Service
9:00 pm Candlelight Service with
selections from Handel’s *Messiah*
beginning at 8:30 pm.

Sun **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:00 am **One Service Only**
Cozy Christmas

OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST
FOR A STAFF PLANNING RETREAT.

The church office will be closed at noon on
Friday, December 23rd and will reopen at 9 a.m.
on Tuesday, December 27th due to the Christmas
holiday.

Worship Highlights: 10:00 am

Communion Table: The flowers are given by
Barb Rosen in memory of Keith Rosen

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Worship Services will be:

6:00 pm – Family Candlelight Service
9:00 pm – Candlelight Service with selections
from Handel’s *Messiah* beginning
at 8:30 pm.

The 9 pm service will also be live streamed.

One service of worship at 10 a.m. on
Sunday, December 25th - Cozy Christmas
Sunday, January 1st - Communion

TODAY IS SING SUNDAY!

You'll enjoy a beautiful service of Advent and
Christmas music played and sung by our
tremendously talented UCC, C musicians. The
Gathering Band, Alleluia Ringers, and Chancel
Choir will fill the air with glorious sounds of the
season! You'll also enjoy a lovely liturgical dance
by two of our youth. See you Sunday the 18th at
10:00, when we light the 4th Advent candle and
"serenade your hearts with song"!

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE SOON

Annual Report time is near! As we are working
on our 2023 budget, we will also need a few other
reports to put this together. **I will need an annual
report from our Church Clerk, Church
Treasurer, the Stewardship Team, and the
Endowment Team.** Please have your report to
me no later than Friday, January 6th. Thank you.

END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

In an effort to be more efficient and try to save money, your End of Year Giving Statements will be emailed to you this year so you can print them out if you need them. If we do not have an email on file for you and you would like your statement mailed, please contact the church office. You can pick it up in the church office or we can mail it to you. **If you have not yet turned in your pledge, please consider doing it soon.** Your pledge is extremely important in helping forecast our 2023 budgets. Blank cards are available in the pew racks and on the website. You may also sign up in REALM. If you need assistance, please give Jeff Miller a call at 330.725.4559 EXT: #13

*** Please note that for your 2022 or 2023 contribution to be eligible for a 2022 tax deduction, we must receive your contribution by 12/31/22.**

THE GIVING TREE

This year our giving tree will provide items for families that are enrolled in the WIC program. The WIC program provides food, nutrition education, and health care referrals to low-income families in Medina who have children from newborn to age 5. Food and education are provided but many times the children go without because of medical bills. You do not need to bring the tags back with your items. Please do not wrap these gifts. The staff at the WIC office will assemble gift bags for the children. There are many tags on the tree! Let's work together to provide for the children in our Medina neighborhoods who need a little joy this holiday season! **All items need to be placed under the tree by today, Dec. 18th!**

SAVE THE DATE

IT'S BACK, so please mark your calendars as the Ladies and Girls Tea will be held on Saturday, May 13th. "All The Tea In China" will be the program presented by our own Vicki Miller. More information will be coming, and ticket sales will begin in April. Please direct questions to Beth Hari, Becky Weber, or Darlene Fazekas.

POINSETTIAS

If you have ordered a poinsettia and wanted to claim it, you may take it home after the 9 p.m. service on Christmas Eve or after the 10 a.m. service on December 25th.

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

The 2023 Flower Chart is now hanging in the East Room hallway. This is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone, or to celebrate a special occasion. Please fill in your name and **write "Church" or "Self"** to let us know if you would like the church to order the flowers for you or if you will be ordering them yourself. The cost of the flowers ordered through the church office is \$22.50. **Also, please write what you would like printed in the Messenger and if you want to claim your flowers after the 10:30 service.**

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 18th, 4:30-6pm

For our last youth group of the season, we are celebrating Christmas with games, gingerbread houses, and Christmas jams. Please, bring a gift-wrapped pair of funny, wacky, crazy socks for our gift exchange!

Youth Group 2023 will kick off on January 15th when we begin our new series "Rise Above." Together we will explore bible passages that teach us how to rise above during tough situations through love and spiritual strength.

WANTED

Our church is in need of a member who has the experience and expertise to complete applications for Financial Grants. There are numerous grants for churches and the UCC would like to pursue such to supplement our 2023 budget. If interested, please call the church office at 330-725-4559.

PILGRIM MESSENGER MAILING

We will not be mailing the Pilgrim Messenger Between Christmas and New Year's on December 22nd or 29th

We will resume mailing again on Thursday, January 5, 2023

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT?

Do you need a special gift for someone this holiday season? How about a new bible? We have several of the new bibles that we purchased, left over, and all our pews are full along with some extras. If you would like to purchase one to take home or give as a gift, they will be for sale beginning this week. You may stop by during the week and purchase one in the office. Cost of one bible is \$15.00.

THE VETERANS OF THE CROSS OFFERING

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years! These funds provide emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. The generous financial offerings given at Christmas time by United Church of Christ congregations enable the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance Team to provide financial support to those who serve and have served the Church. Please consider offering a monetary amount, on Christmas Eve, to help support the Veterans of the Cross.

The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday's *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am

**Please submit articles to the church office at office@uccmedina.org
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**



YOU'RE INVITED TO

Candlelight
CHRISTMAS EVE

❄️ WORSHIP ❄️

6 & 9 P.M. ❄️ LIVESTREAM 9 P.M.
HANDEL'S "MESSIAH" 8:30 P.M.

217 E. LIBERTY ST.
MEDINA, OH

WWW.UCCMEDINA.ORG/LIVE

Matthew 1:18-25

God With Us

According to the dictionary, the term incarnation means “a person who embodies in the flesh a deity, spirit, or abstract quality.” In Jesus, the Holy came to earth to live like us, to laugh like us, to mourn like us, and to love like us. In the simplest terms, the incarnation is the Divine coming to earth as a child, the infant Jesus, for the purpose of embodying concretely the abstract quality of love for one another.

Although only Jesus is the Incarnation with a capital I, Christ’s followers can continue to embody in the flesh and make real the abstract quality of love. It is one thing for us to say that they love one another. Demonstrating that love through acts of service and compassion truly incarnates the love that Christ came to demonstrate.

One way we as the United Church of Christ incarnate Christ’s love at this time of year is by contributing to the Christmas Fund (formerly called the Veterans of the Cross).

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

This testimonial from a Christmas Fund recipient was shared last year, a reminder that the fruits of loving incarnation will always be gratitude, joy, and connection. “The grant is enough to allow me a little breathing room at the end of each month. Thank you for that gift. But equally important to me personally is this grant symbolizes a wonderful connection to the church I love. I have been blessed in so many ways.”

For more information visit: <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/christmas-fund/>